

there are two special papers. The first, by John Treadwell Nichols, is entitled, 'Bird Notes from Florida' and comprises notes on twenty-six species observed while cruising between Miami and Sanibel Light, from March 28 to April 21, 1917. Besides Mr. Nichols' records of birds seen, there is a discussion of the spring migration including a record kept by Dr. and Mrs. G. Clyde Fisher at De Funiack Springs, northwest Florida, in the spring of 1909, and some observations on the habits of the Brown Pelican by Dr. Russell Coles.

The second paper is by Mr. Jay A. Weber on 'Bird Temperatures,' which includes records for one to three individuals, of sixty-five species of eastern North American birds. For Passerine species, which make up the bulk of the records, the temperatures ranges from 106.4 to 111.2. Mr. Weber declines to attempt to draw any deductions from his records, as he does not regard them as sufficiently complete. He also raises a possible question of accuracy in such records, since the live bird is in such a state of excitement at the time of taking the record that the temperature may, for that reason, be above the normal, while in the case of a recently killed bird the shock may have the same effect. The list is a valuable contribution to a somewhat neglected subject.—W. S.

Annual Report of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

— In these war years when many institutions and societies have been hard pressed to keep from a temporary cessation of their activities the National Association of Audubon Societies has been able to continue without any reduction in the scope or extent of its activities, which is greatly to the credit of the officers in charge of its work. Realizing at the outset the important part that bird protection could play, as a guard against crop destruction by noxious insects, the Society made its appeal to the public on these lines and met with immediate response. In the days of food conservation the practical value of the Society's work has appealed to the people as never before.

The need of constant watching of the actions of the State Legislatures in relation to bird protection has been specially illustrated during the past year. The Gulls breeding on the Maine coast islands were assailed as being detrimental to sheep grazing, and the Brown Pelican in the Gulf States was branded as a destroyer of fishes needed for food, while efforts were made to wrest from the Government title to the Klamath and Malheur Bird Reservations in order to convert them into ranching country. The Society has been instrumental in demonstrating that the Gulls were beneficial to the sheep grazers, and that the Pelicans fed almost entirely on species not used for food, and one of the agents is now working to secure legislation in Oregon to ensure the permanent preservation of the bird reservations. In spite of all the published scientific data, laws are con-

stantly being proposed to meet ignorant or selfish wishes for the destruction of some bird or other, and the constant attention of such a body of trained men as the Audubon Societies provide is necessary to controvert such action.

We can only speak in this connection of these few activities of the Association; everyone should get the report and read it for themselves. Besides the reports of the field agents,—always interesting and instructive,—there are reports from seventeen state societies and forty-two bird clubs and other affiliated organizations. In the report of the treasurer we note that the annual membership contributions amount to nearly \$27,000; while a single anonymous subscription to the children's educational fund is for \$20,000. Truly the pioneers in this work can feel amply repaid for the time they unselfishly devoted to starting the movement for bird protection.—W. S.

Zimmer on Rare Birds from Luzon and Mindoro.¹—Mr. Zimmer presents notes on specimens of forty-two species, which on account of rarity, unusual distribution, or peculiar plumage are worthy of record. The specimens are from collections made by himself during the years 1913–1916. One new form *Hyloterpe crissalis*, a Thickhead Shrike, is described as new (p. 230), from Mt. Banahao, Laguna, Luzon. A number of specimens of the hitherto unique *Zosterornis affinis* McGregor, were also obtained.—W. S.

Recent Papers by Wetmore.²—Mr. Wetmore has recently made a study of the anatomy of *Nyctibius* and upon comparing it with *Podargus* and several of the Caprimulgidæ he comes to the conclusion that the differences between the Podargi and the Caprimulgi, recognized as superfamilies of the suborder Nycticoraciæ by Ridgway, are not so transient and sharply defined as has been supposed. *Nyctibius* appears to be about midway between the Caprimulgidæ and the Podargidæ and of twelve principal structural characters, used in the classification of these birds, it agrees with each group in five particulars. Mr. Wetmore would arrange the Nycticoraciæ in two superfamilies, the Steatornithoidæ and the Caprimulgoidæ, the former containing the single genus *Steatornis* and the latter the families Podargidæ, Nyctibiidæ, Ægothelidæ and Caprimulgidæ, the last being regarded as the highest. Attention is called to the need of further study of the anatomy of *Ægotheles* and *Batrachostomus* in order to arrive at a clearer conception of their exact relationship. Our Australian coworkers should be able, with Mr. Wetmore's paper as a basis,

¹ A Few Birds from Luzon and Mindoro. The Philippine Jour. of Science, Vol. XIII, Sect. D, No. 5, September, 1918, pp. 219–232.

² On the Anatomy of *Nyctibius* with Notes on Allied Birds. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 54, pp. 577–586.